## CONSUMPTIVE USE RATES FOR ALFALFA

TAOS FIELD OFFICE

1		Not	2THERN	AREA	S, SUNS	SHINE	JALLEY.	COSTIL	LA)
		CU - IN./[	DAY	(	CIR - IN/	DAY		ACIR - I	N/DAY
MONTH	PEAK	MEAN	LOW	PEAK	MEAN	LOW	PEAK	MEAN	LOW
APRIL				·			**********		
MAY									
JUNE	.20	-17	.07	•17	.14	.06	.19	.16	.06
JULY	.25	. 2/	.08	-18	.15	.06	. 22	.18	.07
AUG.	.20	.17	.07	-14	.12	.05	.18	.15	.06
SEPT.	.13	.1/	.04	-10	.08	.03	012	-10	.04
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Consumptive use studies conducted on alfalfa at Fort Sumner, Portales, and Lovington by the SCS have given us a refined data base on which to make consumptive use computations.

Alfalfa, cut for hay once a month during the growing season, has a variable daily consumptive use rate which reaches a peak value just prior to cutting and a low value which occurs immediately after cutting.

To obtain a consumptive use value for planning or sizing a system, the mean value shown in the table should be used.

For irrigation depth and frequency determinations, the peak daily value is approximately 1.2 times the mean value, while the low value of daily consumptive use is approximately .4 times the mean daily value.

Alfalfa grown for seed production will have a consumptive use value equal to the peak value during full cover until the middle of full bloom.

As irrigation pumping costs have increased, and many water supplies have dwindled, many alfalfa hay growers are aiming not at maximum hay production per acre, but rather at a maximum hay production per acre-inch of water applied. In areas where this is the grower's objective, a planning or sizing value of .85 to .9 times the mean is applicable to a system devoted to alfalfa hay.

The yearly volumes shown for CU, CIR, and ACIR are calculated using the mean value.

YEARLY VOLUME AT 100% EFFICIENCY							
CU	CIR	ACIR					
18.5"	13.5"	16./					

Tabular Computations

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			TAC	,	Fi	eld Offic		•
NOR	THERA	HRE	<u>as, s</u>	ONSH	NEV	ALLEY,	<u> </u>	-/LEH
CROP	NOW TH	"/DAY	CIR ",/DAY	ACIR "/day		TOTAL CU	TOTAL CIR "/YR	TOTAL ACIR "/YR
rrigated	April					15.6	10.6	13.1
asture	May							
	June	· ./3	.10	012				
	July	017	.1/	.14				
	Aug.	.14	. 10	.12				
	Sept.	010	.06	.08				
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